



USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Prices were higher in all locations. The market tone was firm beginning the week. Demand into all channels was moderate to very good. Supplies ranged tight to adequate for current trade requirements. Breaking stock offerings were tight to about sufficient for the fair to moderate demand. Breaking schedules were mixed. Light type hens were about adequate for usually normal slaughter schedules.

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

MIDWEST REGIONAL Prices to producers were 2 cents higher on the larger sizes and unchanged on small with the balance of prices sharply higher when compared to previously reported prices. Trade sentiment was firm. Retail demand was moderate to good with loose egg sales moderate. Supplies were in very close balance to adequate for all sizes. Central States breaking stock prices were unchanged with checks and undergrades 1 cent higher. Offerings were tight with higher bids not securing additional breaking stock. Floor stocks closely balanced to tight. Schedules varied. Trade sentiment firm.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	103-112	107-109
LARGE	103-111	105-108
MEDIUM	93-99	96-98

IA-MN-WI - Prices paid to producers.			
	RANGE	MOSTLY	
LARGE	86-93	88	
MEDIUM	76-80	79	
SMALL	44-47		

MIDWEST AREA: IA,IL,IN,KY,MI,MN,OH,NE,
ND,SD,WI,WV,Western NY, and Western PA

NORTHEAST REGIONAL Prices were sharply higher when compared to previous week's prices. The market tone was firm entering the week. Demand ranged moderate to good. Supplies were close balanced to tight and continued to be held with confidence. Breaking stock offerings were about adequate for the fair demand. Light type hens were about adequate for mostly normal processing schedules.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	110-124	112-117
LARGE	106-120	111-115
MEDIUM	95-108	100-102

NORTHEAST AREA: CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, eastern NJ, eastern NY, PA, RI, Northern VA, and VT

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL Prices were sharply higher from last week's reported prices. Trade sentiment firm. Retail demand ranged moderate to very good, usually fairly good to instances good. Food service movement was generally moderate. Supplies were barely adequate to tight. Central states breaking stock prices were unchanged with checks and undergrades 1 cent higher. Offerings were tight and hard to find even at higher bids. Demand was mostly moderate. Floor stocks closely balanced to tight. Schedules varied. Trade sentiment firm.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	110.5-119	112-115
LARGE	109.5-118	111-114
MEDIUM	97.5-106	99-102

SOUTH CENTRAL AREA: AR,AZ,CO,KS,LA,MO,NM,OK, and TX

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL Mostly prices were sharply higher on all sizes when compared to previous week's values. The market tone was firm beginning the week. Demand into all channels was moderate to good. Supplies ranged adequate to tight for current trade needs. Breaking stock demand was fair for about sufficient offerings. Light type fowl were about adequate for generally normal processing schedules.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	98.25-119	113-116
LARGE	96.25-117	111-114
MEDIUM	83.25-93	98-102

SOUTHEAST AREA: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, eastern TN, and southern VA

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

NEW YORK Prices entered the week 1 cent higher on all sizes. Trade sentiment was firm. Demand was moderate to good. Supplies ranged about adequate to tight for current trade requirements.

	RANGE
EXTRA LARGE	123-127
LARGE	121-125
MEDIUM	110-114

CHICAGO & MIDWEST EGGS Prices were sharply higher. The market tone was firm. Retail demand was moderate to very good, best for features. Food service movement was mostly moderate. Supplies were barely adequate to tight..

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	109-117	111-113
LARGE	108-116	109-112
MEDIUM	98-107	101-103

see page 3 for prices on certified organic eggs in cartons

WESTERN Prices 12 cents higher on jumbo, 13-14 cents higher on extra large and large, and 13 cents higher on medium. The Pacific region inventory was 1% lower than last Monday with California unchanged and Oregon-Washington-Utah down 3%. Retailer demand moderate. Offerings held for premium prices.

CALIFORNIA

Prices 12 cents higher on jumbo, 14 cents higher on extra large and large, and 13 cents higher on medium and small. The California inventory was unchanged from last Monday. Retailer demand moderate. Offerings actively sought at premium prices. Small benchmark price 115. Ads in Northern California: major-large 18 pack buy 1 get 1 free.

CALIFORNIA: California Egg Marketing Association and other marketers benchmark price for negotiated egg sales of USDA Grade AA and Grade AA in cartons, cents per dozen. This price does not reflect discounts or other contract terms.

	RANGE
JUMBO	157
EXTRA LARGE	154
LARGE	145
MEDIUM	135

PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA		NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	
	RANGE		RANGE
JUMBO	299-399	JUMBO	309-389
EXTRA LARGE	289-359	EXTRA LARGE	319-369
LARGE	239-339	LARGE	269-359
MEDIUM	199-279	MEDIUM	229-299

NATIONAL RETAIL EGG PURCHASES REPORT Cooperators estimate orders for the week ending March 12, 2004 will increase by 1 percent. Present week purchases for the week ending March 05, 2004 were 231,815 cases which was 12 percent below the prior week and 5 percent below estimates.

	CARTONED	LOOSE	TOTAL
Cases purchased present week.....	193,669	38,146	231,815

% change from the prior week.....	-14	-2	-12

Comparison figures are compiled on a matched plant basis. Purchases and estimates by 14 cooperators; 30 dozen cases or equivalent.

CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK Breaking stock prices were unchanged with checks and undergrades one cent higher. Offerings were tight and hard to find even at higher bids. Demand was mostly moderate. Floor stocks closely balanced to tight. Schedules varied. Trade sentiment firm.

Prices in cents per dozen, delivered to breakers, 48 lb. minimum net weight per 30 dozen case, eggs from table egg layers. Packaging may vary.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
BREAKING STOCK	91-94	
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	77-83	77-79

CENTRAL STATES AREA: AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Majority prices were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was at least moderate for offerings that were about adequate to adequate. Processing schedules were mostly normal. Supplies of finished product were clearing. The undertone was at least steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *

FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 08-MAR-04

	RANGE CENTS/LB.	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	6-9.25	8.75-9.25	8.89
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT		
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT		

*WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN Prices were too few to report. Demand was moderate for fully adequate offerings of spent hens. Finished sales were fair. Schedules were normal. Trade sentiment was at least steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *

PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 08-MAR-04

	RANGE	MAJORITY
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

*WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

WEEKLY SHELL EGG INVENTORY REPORT-AM MAR 08, 2004

STOCKS ON HAND AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING 1/ 2/

(30 DOZEN CASES-IN THOUSANDS)

		NO	SO	SO		5-Area
		CENT	CENT	Atl	Pacific	
Jumbo	Curr Wk	12.3	19.8	8.1	14.8	68.4
	Change	2.0	0.2	-1.0	1.8	3%
Ex Lge	Curr Wk	26.6	33.6	12.2	20.4	127.5
	Change	0.9	-8.2	0.7	-0.9	-7%
Large	Curr Wk	51.0	107.2	70.3	100.4	441.5
	Change	8.6	8.6	-7.8	1.0	3%
Medium	Curr Wk	20.4	33.7	12.8	20.6	114.0
	Change	5.0	4.5	-2.8	1.9	7%
Small	Curr Wk	6.6	4.1	1.4	4.0	21.7
	Change	2.6	0.6	0.0	-0.2	30%
Misc	Curr Wk	4.1	23.1	8.3	13.5	56.1
	Change	0.4	-0.8	-2.2	0.2	-2%
Ungraded	Curr Wk	22.6	35.4	16.3	31.7	136.3
	Change	10.5	-11.2	-0.2	1.3	-4%
Total	Curr Wk	143.6	256.9	129.4	205.4	965.4
Percent	Change	27%	-2%	-9%	3%	1%
TOTAL			Number of Cases		Percent Change	Number of Cooperators

Shell Egg	965.4	1%	170
Shell Egg Breaking Stock 2/	220.0	-2%	35

Total Shell Egg	1,185.4	1%	205
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1/Information is supplied by a universe of 170 cooperators who normally have stocks on hand each Monday A.M. and is on the basis of matched plants reporting in both the current and previous weeks. Sample does not represent total U.S. inventory but includes eggs packed for export when in cooperator's coolers.

No valid comparison can be made with year ago or previous months' figures due to changes in number of plants surveyed, holidays falling in different weeks or changes in size of plant operations.

2/ Due to changes in the cooperator universe, the relevant totals for the previous week were ADJUSTED. This adjustment is necessary to facilitate valid comparisons. The revised figures are:

	NO	SO	SO		5-AREA
	CENT	CENT	ATL	PACIFIC	SUMMARY
NORTHEAST	113.5	263.4	142.7	200.2	232.7
					952.5

CANADIAN EGGS

MONTREAL: WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE TO RETAILERS (CANADIAN CENTS) GRADED IN CARTONS, AS REPORTED BY CANADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23, 2004.

GRADE A	XLARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
	193	190	181	116.2

MINIMUM PRODUCER PRICES FOB FARM FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING FEBRUARY 23, 2004 AS ESTABLISHED BY ONTARIO EGG AND FOWL PRODUCERS MARKETING BOARD.

GRADE A	XLARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
	149	149	139	77

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES — DAILY WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR MARCH 05, 2004

CURRENT LOADS								15.50	FUTURE LOADS								20.00	TOTAL LOADS								35.50
		SE		NE		MW		LOADS			SC		NW		SW		LOADS									
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST			CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST											
GNR W 1	93.00	101.00	94.00	95.00	—	—	5.00	GNR W 1	99.67	100.67	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.00									
GL W J	—	—	109.00	110.00	112.50	—	2.00	GL W J	112.00	118.00	—	—	—	—	—	124.00	2.00									
GL W XL	—	—	110.50	110.00	114.00	—	7.25	GL W XL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	125.63	3.00									
GL W LG	—	—	—	—	111.50	—	5.50	GL W LG	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	122.63	4.75									
GL W MD	—	—	89.80	91.60	—	—	6.25	GL W MD	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.00									
GL W SM	—	—	61.00	62.00	—	—	.25																			
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	—	—	—	.50																			
NRBS - 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.00																			

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES — WEEKLY (5-DAY) WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR 03/01/04-03/05/04

CURRENT LOADS								FUTURE LOADS								TOTAL LOADS							
54.25								64.75								139.00							
		SE		NE		MW					SC		NW		SW								
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS								
GNR W 1	87.25	96.25	85.50	90.92	95.78	98.00	47.00	GNR W 1	99.67	100.67	—	—	—	—	3.00								
GNR BR 1	—	90.00	—	—	—	—	5.00	GNR BR 1	—	99.00	—	—	—	—	3.00								
GL W J	—	—	108.00	109.00	109.38	—	6.00	GL W J	112.50	118.00	—	122.50	—	121.00	7.00								
GL W XL	—	99.00	106.67	104.48	102.44	106.50	36.00	GL W XL	104.50	109.25	—	—	—	115.63	12.00								
GL W LG	—	103.55	90.00	99.62	104.23	105.75	27.25	GL W LG	101.00	—	—	—	—	116.29	9.75								
GL W MD	94.00	98.00	86.42	88.67	101.50	93.20	25.75	GL W MD	95.00	—	—	—	—	100.63	15.00								
GL W SM	—	—	57.50	65.25	67.00	—	1.00	GL BR LG	—	106.00	—	—	—	—	1.00								
GL BR XL	—	—	—	—	105.00	112.00	.25	NRBS - 48	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.00								
GL BR LG	—	—	—	—	105.00	112.43	1.75																
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	91.00	89.67	92.00	7.00																
NRBS - 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.00																

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT - MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED.

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT-FROZEN EGGS (In Thousands)

ON HAND	03/01/04	02/23/04	03/03/03
PACIFIC COAST	349	372	520
LOS ANGELES	276	302	477

HONOLULU, OAHU-WHITE SHELL EGGS

UNAVAILABLE

NORTH CAROLINA EGGS The market is higher on all sizes. The supply is tight. Retail demand is moderate to good.

PRICES WEIGHTED AVERAGE, IN SMALL LOTS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, NEARBY RETAIL OUTLET, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	131.52
LARGE	129.52
MEDIUM	117.52
SMALL	81.62

CERTIFIED ORGANIC EGGS IN CARTONS

(price per carton delivered to first receivers)

Brown Eggs	CENTS/CARTON	MOSTLY
Extra Large doz.	210 – 250	222 – 240
1/2 doz.	123 – 151	125 – 134
Large doz.	200 – 250	217 – 225
1/2 doz.	120 – 142	128 – 132

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OUT OF STATE EGGS - STATE COMPILATION

Report Date: 03/05/2004

Report Period: 02/15/2004 - 02/21/2004

State	Number Cases Shipped to Northern California	Number Cases Shipped to Central California	Number Cases shipped to Southern California	Total State
Arizona	0	0	4,919	4,919
Arkansas	0	0	1,600	1,600
Colorado	0	500	6,751	7,251
Iowa	9,310	3,895	49,487	62,692
Michigan	0	0	2,665	2,665
Minnesota	2,320	780	5,628	8,728
Missouri	0	0	830	830
Montana	0	0	631	631
Nevada	0	0	889	889
New Hampshire	0	0	2,682	2,682
New York	0	0	840	840
North Carolina	0	0	1,560	1,560
Oregon	3,917	1,320	720	5,957
South Dakota	780	0	0	780
Utah	0	480	13,257	13,737
Washington	0	16	360	376
Wisconsin	0	0	40	40
TOTAL	16,327	6,991	92,859	116,177
SHIPPED TO MILITARY	0	0	0	0
SHIPPED TO NONMILITARY	16,327	6,991	92,859	116,177